

**MINUTES OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST BOARD MEETING
HELD ON 28th OCTOBER 2010, MEZZ 3, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

Present:

Chris William (BCC) - Chair, Chris Munday (BCC), Cllr. Lin Hazell (BCC), Alan Dinning (BCC), Cllr. Penni Thorne (AVDC), Andy Toynton (Young People's Learning Agency), David Lunn (NHS Buckinghamshire), Collette McCarthy (BCC), Bianca Kerley (Jobcentre Plus), DCI Yvette Hitch (TVP), Ed Macalister-Smith (NHS Buckinghamshire), Vivien Sailsbury (Voluntary Sector), Malcolm Peckham (School Governor Representative), Maninder Hayre (Connexions), Pauline Odulinski (Aylesbury College), Gill Clipson (Amersham & Wycombe College), Melanie Turner (BCC) – notes.

Apologies:

Sue Imbriano (BCC), Ed Mallam (BCC), Carol Mason (Voluntary Sector), Alan Goodrum (CDC), Cllr. Jeanette Mann (WDC), Joules Howarth (Holmer Green Junior School), Chief Superintendent Paul Emmings (TVP), Katharine Horler (Connexions), Bob Harrison (Connexions), Peter Holding (Sir William Borlase Grammar School), Cllr. Hilary Evans (SBDC), Cllr. Mimi Harker (CDC).

Welcome and Apologies

CW welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record with the following amendment:

Page 2, Item 4, Safeguarding Vulnerable Individuals – VS noted Action4Youth will be signing up to the initiative in their own right. MT to update previous minutes.

Action: MT

Matters Arising:

Page 1, Item 2, Minutes and Matters Arising, Trust Champion Role – CW reminded colleagues to contact EM if interested in becoming a Trust Champion. PO asked if members would receive any direction? CW noted EM would prepare a briefing pack to all those who are interested.

Action: EM

Page 3, Item 5, Feedback from the Joint Commissioning Group and Annual Report – with regards to the spending review VS asked whether Action4Youth would be compact compliant? CM noted there haven't yet been any updates; Central Government will communicate future guidance.

Page 6, Item 6, CYP Plan/LAA Q1 Performance Report:

AD confirmed Thames Valley Police Safeguarding Group met two weeks ago, work is being undertaken regarding domestic violence referrals. MP noted as someone who sits on the Domestic Violence Panel in High Wycombe, money for coordinators has been cut back.

Apprenticeships – CW confirmed he has written to partner agencies.

Page 5, Item 7, Reform of Children’s Trusts – SI to update colleagues on the proposals at the next meeting.

Action: SI

Page 8, Item 11, Any Other Business – CW noted the preliminary results for the Bucks Debate have now been published. CW asked colleagues to comment on this.

Action: All

Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Child Poverty Update (Collette McCarthy)

CMc gave an update on the progress of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment.

The Child Poverty Act places a statutory duty on local authorities and partner agencies to carry out and publish a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy.

The following stages have/will be undertaken:

- Needs Assessment – completed.
- Consultation.
- Strategy Development.
- Circulate the draft strategy.
- Strategy implementation.

The Needs Assessment identified four broad Child Poverty priorities, each with a number of sub priorities:

1. Increase parental employment and maximize incomes.
2. Reduce health and inequalities.
3. Improve community cohesion and access to services locally.
4. Improve educational attainment so that young people can enter well paid work.

The Child Poverty Workshop, which involved a range of different partners, identified a number of reoccurring principles across all of the building blocks:

- Child Poverty is everyone's business.
- Long-term strategy to tackle the priorities.
- The Big Society - making it localised.
- Prevention.
- Raising aspirations.
- Accessibility of services.
- Marketing of services.

CMc reported the following work is being undertaken regarding consulting on the priorities:

- Children and young people's events in the October half term.
- Parent's forum through Children Centres.
- Local Community Groups.
- BSP.
- Local Trust Partnership Boards.

Consultation will finish at the end of November. The Children and Young People's Plan Group and William Roberts from the Centre of Excellence and Outcomes(C4EO) will come together to develop the strategy.

CMc to circulate the priorities document to Board members.

Action: CMc

The floor was opened for questions. The following was noted:

- PO invited CMc to talk to the student council at Aylesbury College. This could be included in the consultation process.
- To date there hasn't been any detailed service planning undertaken on the Needs Assessment but this will happen when the strategy is pulled together. CM noted there have been challenges as a lot of the data is quite old, the most recent is before the recession.
- MP was delighted to see community cohesion as one of the priorities.
- Action4Youth is undertaking a volunteering project with the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). The project involves concentrating on areas with high indices of child poverty to consider the best ways of supporting the work of volunteers, their training and development, in the context of the Council's Child Poverty Act Strategy. Action4Youth will be working with approximately 150 groups. VS noted she would be delighted to be involved in the consultation.

CW requested the Board have a discussion over the priorities, collectively colleagues haven't taken a view on this - the Board agreed.

5. Feedback from Joint Commissioning Group and Annual Report (Chris Munday)

CM presented and discussed the 'CYP Joint Commissioning Strategy Action Plan Tracking Sheet'.

CM noted milestones which are amber are usually due to lack of clarity/funding.

The following updates were noted:

- Page 1, Children and Young People with complex needs:
 - Milestone 2 – £500,000 of capital as carry forward. This impacts on three schemes but mainly Green Park.
- Page 4, Schools Capital Programme:
 - Milestone 1 – There hasn't been any announcements but money is coming into the accounts. The group is looking to reallocate money.

- Milestone 3 – Still waiting to hear from the Secretary of State. Money will be granted but there are uncertainties about how much. CM has asked SI to send a letter to Michael Gove to see if an early decision can be made.
- Page 7, Developing Local Provision:
 - Milestone 1 - Wendover and Prestwood are the two sites which need to be confirmed. Planning permission has been granted (one of the sites requires historical agreement) and the sites can be accessed. However, capital can't be carried forward. Schedules may have to be reconsidered or work stopped completely. Due to being in contract, BCC has managed to secure more money than any other local authority. Centres need to be built by 31st March 2011.
 - Milestone 2 - Government approach has changed therefore it's difficult to deliver the initiative. 75-80% of schools in Bucks have Healthy School status.
- Page 8, Children and Young People with complex needs:
 - Milestone 1 - SMT have been presented with a paper. Further work needs to be done e.g. setting up a take and finish group. All of the issues are being looked at. CM to circulate the paper which went to SMT and report back to the Board in January.

Action: CM

- Page 9, 14-19 Reforms:
 - Milestone 2 - There is currently 1 lack learner seeking placement.
- Page 10, Youth & Leisure Activities:
 - Milestone 1 - Unlikely to know the budgetary position until December.

6. CYP Plan/LAA Q2 Performance Report (Chris Munday)

CM presented the paper 'Performance Monitoring of the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan Targets'.

Under each key priority for Buckinghamshire, the following key points were noted:

Closing the Gap

CM noted this remains the key priority within Bucks.

- Page 1, NI073:
 - performance amongst all young people has significantly improved.
 - best nationally.
 - the higher the performance the bigger the gap.
 - the cohort of children who didn't do very well is very small.
 - the child poverty seminar will provide a greater insight.
 - nothing through on pupil premium.
- Page 3, NI102:
 - there is a small number but includes children with SEN.
- Page 4, NI114:
 - the figure has decreased from before but permanent exclusions increased. CM noted he's just taken on this work. He agreed to have discussions with colleagues and produce a report.

Action CM

Early Intervention and Prevention

- Page 1, Children with a child protection plan from BME backgrounds:
 - Bucks New University will do doing a presentation at a future meeting.
 - Yvette Thomas to attend to the 16th December meeting to discuss.

Action: Yvette Thomas

- Page 6, Information Sharing:
 - ContactPoint has ceased.
 - Training is not mandatory.
 - Looking at how the on-line training can be adapted.

7. Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14 Update (Chris Munday)

CM presented and discussed the one page summary. The following key points were noted:

- The new plan looks to be short and snappy, linking to partners plans.
- The document will only be available to access on the Trust website therefore, saving on printing.
- The Child Poverty / JSNA are separate.

The floor was opened for questions.

DL noted he was pleased the document was short as it's more likely to be read.

VS – happy to see it on the website. Possibly have links to various newsletters.

CW reported the main aim was to slim down the number of indicators and focus on those which tell us what's going on.

CM noted at the next meeting a discussion would be had around the priorities and an early draft document presented.

Action: EM

8. Children and Young People's Outcomes Report (Chris Munday)

CM presented and discussed the 'Children and Young People's Outcomes Report'. CM noted the following:

- The importance of getting a better flavour of quantitative and qualitative data.
- The outcomes response form is a consistent way of reporting, it's available on-line or teams can receive a pad. Colleagues are also encouraged to use the form to report what isn't working so well. There's also a form for children and one for young people to complete. A parent/carer version is also being looked into.
- The report is the first attempt on what's being recorded.
- The descriptions within 'What Happened?' are still very much around process i.e. what difference has it made to the lives of children and young people.

The floor was opened for questions.

PO asked if changes could be made to the formatting i.e. subheadings.

CMc noted within the Family Information Service Team the process has helped them become more focused in care planning for children and young people.

MP noted he would be happy to put something on the Governor network.

VS noted understanding the language is difficult. VS also noted it would be a good idea to have a screen version that one can see at bus stops etc. MT to send VS the children and young people's versions of the forms.

Action: MT

DL noted he liked the informal sections.

EMS noted he doesn't know whether health has been fully represented in the report, they have lots of examples. CM noted health have been invited to comment but haven't filled anything in yet. EMS to take this back.

Action: EMS

9. Preparation for Inspection (Chris Munday)

CM discussed the 'Preparation for Inspection' report. The following key points were noted:

- Aside from Fostering and the unannounced inspection for Safeguarding, BCC haven't had a proper inspection in over 4 years. Therefore, it's likely one will happen shortly.
- Ofsted only need to give 10 days notice before they visit.
- The framework has been circulated as there is a considerable amount of cross working.
- A working group is being formed and led by Liza Wormell.

AD noted the main things to be aware of are the inspection activities for Safeguarding and Looked After Children (pages 13 & 14).

VS noted the revision of VCS Engage.

PO reported Aylesbury College is having a 2 day monitoring visit next week. The college receives 3 weeks notice before an inspection and has a 3 week action plan which they find very helpful. PO also noted it would be helpful for organisations to have a copy of the action plan so they know what is required of them. CMc to feed back to Liza regarding the action plan.

Action: CMc

10. Organisational Updates

LH noted the We Do Care Group celebrated one year of the pledge. A review of the pledge is now underway.

AT reported the following:

- Protection Funding- the statement makes clear full participation is up to the age of 18 yrs. There is a promise to support increased participation but a reduction in unit cost – don't know further details.
- Withdrawal of EMA from January 2011 – has always been very effective at raising participation.

- Impact – picking up extra work on the academies front. Final announcement on 16-18 commissioning, outcomes late November / early December.

PT noted as part of Democracy Week, Aylesbury Vale District Council had a young people's day.

EMS noted the following:

- Review of maternity services. The midwife led unit in High Wycombe should be opening shortly.
- National review of children's heart surgery. The John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford will not be amongst this specialised work.

MP noted the CSR issue for schools. There is a 0.3% increase but there is still the worry about pupil premium money. There are challenges around what is/isn't ring fenced and the viability of what local authorities can provide (mainly in primary schools).

CW noted 11 have become academies. South Bucks and Slough are areas where someone has requested a free school. The schools budget is protected but is unsure about pupil premium.

CM noted ring fenced grants have all merged in DSG. We have been commissioned by the schools to look at the local authority side of the grant. The proposal to be put forward is 15/20% realignment

DL reported at a strategic level, NHS Buckinghamshire is landscaping what it's going to look like for young people. In-year reductions have been reached. DL also noted as a non executive director of the NHS he has a specialist interest in safeguarding.

GC reported they have secured a grant for the refurbishment of the Flackwell Heath site. Currently it isn't EDA compliant but soon will be. Amersham and Wycombe College are also working with Wycombe District Council, looking at sites in the town centre.

PO noted Aylesbury College is concentrating on the spending review. Schools have got protected funding for 6th forms but question whether the gap would get bigger? AT reported he didn't know the severity of unit cost regarding 16-18's but there be an even impact. The closing of the gap is over a period of time, this will form part of the white paper.

BK noted the following:

- Jobcentre plus have launched work clubs (for networking) and working together (promoting voluntary work)
- On the horizon it looks like there will be a shift in people claiming benefits. Incapacity benefit is being accessed. Certain people claiming may be transferred onto Jobseekers Allowance (JSA).
- Loan parents claiming JSA – age range will shift from 7yrs down to 5 yrs. Working less than 16 hours per week has gone up to 24 hrs.

CM reported loan parents are the biggest cohort for child poverty. If this group is being put onto JSA we will be making them poorer. CMc and BK to have discussions and come back with a report at the next meeting.

Action: CMc & BK

VS noted the following:

- Working on behalf of members and had success in gaining further resources e.g. Sure Start in Aylesbury.
- BVolunteering – there are more places, it can assist people into work.
- Action4Youth are running a conference in the first week of March, this will be looking at child poverty.

YT noted the force is undergoing a restructure from 1st April 2011. Frontline staff will not be affected but senior management will. Decisions are being made as to who attends meetings (CYP Trust Board and Safeguarding Board).

MH reported the following:

- Area Based Grant has been cut therefore, redundancies have gone.
- Connexions are still hitting all their targets.
- Four people are going on maternity leave. Staff won't be replaced until more is known on spending.
- NEETS – in relation to the types of jobs they are asking for, there are very few job opportunities available.

CW noted the following:

- Won't know the detail of the CSR until December. Comparatory work is in:
 - 30% reduction (£90 million) in the non schools budget.
 - The budget set last February saw a reduction of £52 million, for three years.
 - Introduced emergency budget this years (£9.2 million).
 - Planning work (£31 million)
- Haven't looked at year four as the decline is within the first three years, cut goes up in year four.
- Cabinet's members work – identifying areas which are least painful.
- Protect frontline services, the vulnerable and disadvantaged as much as possible.
- Need to recognise there are boarder public priorities e.g. highways maintenance, community safety.
- Encourage people to take greater responsibility for their own lives e.g. smoking, recycling and grater responsibility as a community e.g. volunteering.
- The Big Society – partnership working.
- Protecting grants for voluntary and community sectors.
- Cabinet are finalising proposals on the 10th December, the consultation stage will then begin.

AD noted the following:

- Tricky to balance the increase in demand with financial arrangements e.g. Safeguarding have the highest number of Looked After Children Bucks has ever had.
- Children and young people come with a much higher level of need.
- Reduced social work vacancy rate (47 posts are now down to 11).
- Fostering campaign is starting in June; this will be running for two years.
- Plan to develop multi-agency process of children and young people in crisis. The report will come to The Board for final agreement.

- Improved assessment timescales.

CM noted Louise Goll's post hasn't been replaced. AD is responsible for the Youth Service and Achievement and learning, CM Access and Inclusion and SI School Improvement.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 16th December 2010, 9.30am to 12 noon, Mezz 3, County Hall, Aylesbury.